

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 ARAE-00 EUR-12 MC-02 ACDA-05

EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /099 W

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P 191850Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2149

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

US MISSION UN NEW YORK PRIORITY 710

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2151

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR MOPS OU GY AO

SUBJ: TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR CUBAN MILITARY FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA

REF: A. BRIDGETOWN 2269 AND 2270 (NOTAL); B. PORT OF SPAIN 3043

1. AFTER LOCAL MEDIA REPORTED EVENING DEC 18 AND MORNING 19 ACTION BY BARBODOS AND TRINIDAD/TOBAGO GOVTS TO DENY TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR CUBAN MILITARY FLIGHTS ENROUTE TO ANGOLA, SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY REFTELS, I PHONED GOG FONMIN FRED WILLS MORNING DEC 19. I REFERRED TO THESE REPORTS AND ADDED THAT IT SEEMED LOGICAL CUBANS WOULD NEXT TURN TO GUYANA. I ASKED IF CUBANS HAD APPROACHED GOG. WILLS ANSWERED WITHOUT HESITATION QUOTE THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO OFFICIAL APPROACH UNQUOTE. (COMMENT: PAO INFORMED DEC 18 BY LOCAL SOURCE IN AVIATION SECTOR THAT CUBANS

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DID ASK ROUTINELY SOME WEEKS AGO FOR INTRANSIT

FACILITIES FOR NON-SCHEDULED FLIGHTS AND WERE TOLD THEY COULD OBTAIN FACILITIES ON REGULAR COMMERCIAL TERMS. SINCE FEES AT TIMEHRI AIRPORT ARE QUITE HIGH, CUBANS DROPPED THE IDEA-, HE CONCLUDED.)

2. I NEXT TOLD WILLS I EXPECTED BY GOVT WOULD BE ASKING ME SHORTLY WHAT GOG WOULD DO IN EVENT CUBANS SHOULD ASK FOR INTRANSIT FACILITIES, AND I WONDERED IF HE WAS IN POSITION TO HELP ME ANTICIPATE WASHINGTON ON THAT POINT. WILLS REPLIED THAT AS OF NOW HE WAS SURE ANSWER WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT HE HAD BEEN TELLING ME OF GOG POLICY IN ANGOLAN CONFLICT: I.E. QUOTE NO UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: ON THIS QUESTION, I AM INCLINED TO ACCEPT WILLS' ANSWER AT FACE VALUE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF CONSISTENT LINE HE HAS TAKEN ON ANGOLA, BUT FOR ADDITIONAL REASON OF CARICOM SOLIDARITY, IN LIGHT OF AGREEMENT AT JUST CONCLUDED CARICOM HEADS OF GOVT MEETING TO COORDINATE FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES AND TACTICS. IN ANY EVENT, I SUSPECT THAT DEMARCHE ON OUR PART MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.
KREBS

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